



Welcome to ITV - The Week-End College!
You are enrolled in:

Philosophy 1 (7024)
(UC: CSU) 3 Units

Introduction to Philosophy

A survey of the fundamental questions about self, society, and universe. Primary focus is on theories of reality, theories of knowledge, philosophy of religion, and philosophy of death.

The Weekend College classes combine video lessons with online activities and weekend class meetings. You should complete all three components to successfully pass the class. The course requirements are in the online syllabus. If you have questions contact your instructor via email or by telephone during their office hours listed above.

Instructor
Robert A. Sliff, M.A.
 (818) 364-7600, ext. 7157
 philosophygadfly@ca.rr.com

Office Hours
 Thursdays, 1:00 – 8:00 PM

Getting Started

Even though you do not meet with your instructor until the first weekend after the semester begins, the online component begins June 15, 2009. Follow the checklist below to get started in your class now.

1. Choose a Campus

Select the campus to attend your weekend class and make note of its time and location.

2. Buy Your Books

The back of this page lists the required and recommend books for your course. Buy your books as soon as possible so that you can get started on your assigned readings. Textbooks can be purchased at City, Mission, Valley, and Pierce Colleges or from most online bookstores.

3. Log In

The class website opens **June 15**, log in and read your course syllabus. It will list all assignments and quizzes times and due dates. You can find log in instructions on the last page of this letter.

4. Email Your Instructor

Once you have logged in, email your instructor and let her know that you have successfully logged in to the class website.

5. Plan Your Schedule

Weekend College courses are fast paced—covering a lot of material in a short period of time. At a minimum, you should expect to spend approximately 15 hours per week on the class. Schedule time in advance for reading the textbooks, watching the video episodes, and completing the online assignments. If you plan to watch or record the videos on the educational cable channel LA 36, also note those times and set the timer on your Tivo or DVD recorder in advance. You can find the broadcast schedule on the back of this page.

Classroom Location Schedule

Attend class at any one of the four campuses: L.A. City, L.A. Pierce, L.A. Harbor or L.A. Valley College. The instructor teaches at all four locations.

Day	Campus	Time	Location
Saturday	L.A. Harbor College	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon	Northeast Academic Hall, Rm. 203
	L.A. City College	1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.	DaVinci Hall, Rm. 305
Sunday	L.A. Valley College	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon	Foreign Language Bldg., Rm 104
	L.A. Pierce College	1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.	Pierce Village, 8102

Attendance at the class meetings is expected.
 If you fail to attend, you may be dropped from class.

Summer 2009 CALENDAR

June 15 – August 2, 2009

Important Dates and Deadlines

Semester Begins	June 15
Cablecasts Begin on Cable Channel LA 36	June 15
Last Day to Drop or Change Classes	June 19
<i>(without Incurring Fees)</i>	
Last Day to ADD Classes	June 26
Last Day to Drop Classes Without a "W"	June 29
<i>(no refund)</i>	
Last Day to File for Credit/No Credit	July 8
Last Day to Drop with a "W"	July 20
<i>(After this date a grade must be issued)</i>	

Class Meeting Schedule

Class Meeting	June 20 & 21
Class Meeting	June 27 & 28
No Class Meetings	July 4 & 5
Midterms Exams.....	July 11 & 12
Class Meeting	July 18 & 19
Class Meeting	July 25 & 26
Final Exams.....	Aug. 1 & 2

A photo ID is required to take exams.

Textbooks

Required:

Title:	<u>Philosophy - A Text with Reading</u>
Edition:	10/E, 2008 (Paperback)
Author:	Velasquez, Manuel
Publisher:	Thomson/Wadsworth
ISBN:	978-0-4950-9497-5

Recommended:

Title:	<u>The Examined Life Telecourse Study Guide</u>
Edition:	4/E, 2007
Author:	Velasquez, Manuel & White, J.P.
Publisher:	Thomson/Wadsworth
ISBN:	978-0-4951-0302-8



Textbooks are available in the college libraries. Most libraries have the texts on Reserve, (two hour use, in the library) some libraries have copies in the General Collection. Individual Library Policies apply and they may be different at each campus. Students must have a valid student ID **for the campus they intend to use** the library materials. For example, to check out books from Pierce College Library students must have a valid Pierce College Student ID. Students who enrolled only in ITV classes may obtain a Mission College ID through the Admissions Office at Mission College.

Videos

The Examined Life

Four Ways to Watch the Videos

1. Available on the Los Angeles Educational Channel, LA 36. The broadcast schedule is:
Mondays, June 15 – July 27 @ 8:00 – 10:00 AM
2. Purchase a complete set of the DVD's from the L.A. Pierce College Bookstore:
www.piercebookstore.com or 818-347-0313
3. Available in Broadband at: www.lamission.edu/ITV
4. Watch the video lessons at the Learning Resource Centers at City, Pierce, Harbor, Valley, and Mission Colleges. You must bring your student ID or fee receipt to view the videos.

Hello students,

Welcome to Philosophy 1, Introduction to Philosophy. The class you are about to begin is based on the outstanding telecourse, *The Examined Life*. The telecourse and the readings in our text will be the center of attention, but that will not be all. We will also be facing each other in class where we can talk about the questions presented, questions that are at once the most profound as well as the most practical, questions that have troubled human kind since the beginning of the break away from mythic existence, the break away initiated first by the earliest philosophers in ancient Greece. I think we can fairly say that this class deals with the most enduring concerns, concerns that are the foundation for the very continuation of culture and civilization as we know it. In the opinion of many profound thinkers, the "tissue" of civilization is very flimsy and easily torn. There are always forces that would like to destroy any civilized way of life, and these are always fueled by some kind of philosophy. We want to think about who these forces are and what agendas they are pursuing. But more than that, we want to think about who we are and how we should face our futures. Only by addressing such questions do we have any hope of dealing fruitfully with our own-most possibilities. Thus, we will be dealing with a discipline (philosophy) that is at once the most personal and the most intellectually penetrating. Your goal will not be to memorize some facts, but, through participation with our intellectual heritage, to come to better understand what is at stake for all of us. We can hope for improvement in the future. We can make a difference through thinking more deeply about ourselves and our world.

At a more personal level, I wish to add a couple of comments about myself. While there are more details posted on the Etudes NG class website, let me say here that my major subjects at Cal State Univ., Long Beach were History and Philosophy. In my graduate work, I concentrated exclusively on philosophy, though I have never given up my love of history. I guess I can say that I settled on philosophy because it is a combination of the two, in that, for me, it is truly intellectual history.

It is my hope to share some of my own excitement about philosophy with you. I find philosophy the most challenging of subjects and one that never ceases to hold my attention. I hope I can cause some of my concerns to rub off on you so that you can develop an appreciation for philosophy. In this I am committed to do my best to help you along the path out of Plato's cave.

On practical issues, those about doing the work of the class, please go to the web and check out the Etudes NG class site as soon as you can. You should have access to the site. If you have enrolled late, there will be some delay, but you can still enter the site by using the words "guest" twice. When you do get access please look over the syllabus. It has just about everything you need to know to get started.

As the class is about to begin, I expect to see every one of you "bright and shiny" in class this June. At the first meeting we will be going over, in detail, the requirements for the course as well as looking over some of the functions of our class interface website, Etudes NG. In addition, I will offer you some introductory material on the subject matter and the nature of philosophy. I find that most people have trouble articulating just what the philosophy is about.

Finally, I suggest you try to get a copy of the text [*Philosophy, a Text with Readings* 10th Ed] as soon as you can and get started reading the first chapter. I also would like to recommend a wonderful small book that you may be able to find in a normal book store. It is called *Sophie's World, a novel about the history of philosophy*, by Joestin Gaarder (\$7.99). If you can pick up a copy at a local book store, think of it as light reading, reading you can do while sitting comfortably in an armchair.

I look forward to seeing all of you on the weekend of June 20th and 21st. Be advised that since the topics are repeated at each location, you can attend at any one of the classes listed: LA Harbor College on Saturday morning, LA City College on Saturday afternoon, LA Valley College on Sunday morning and LA Pierce College on Sunday afternoon. See the first page for times, building names and rooms.

Best regards,



Robert A. Sliff, M.A.
Instructor

Online Class Website

Step 1. Where do I go to log on to this course?

- Go to <http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>
- Bookmark this page!
- Enter your user ID

Step 2. What is my User ID?

In lowercase letters and with no spaces:

- use the first 2 letters of your first name
- *and* the first 2 letters of your last name
- *and* the last 5-digits of your student ID #

Example: Donna Smith:

Student ID #: 88 455 6789

User ID:

My User ID is: _____

Step 3. What is my Password?

Using four numbers together with no spaces:

- use two numbers for your birth month
- *and* use two numbers for the birth day

Example: if your birth date was January 3

Password:

My Password is: _____

Once you have logged in you will see two sections on the top left of the page, My Workspace and on the right, your class website. Your class website begins with LAMCITYV. Click on the tab to enter the course. See the example below:



E-mail your instructor once you have successfully logged in to the course website.

NOTE TO AOL USERS: Launch either an Internet Explorer or a Netscape browser after you connect using AOL and minimize the AOL Browser. DO NOT USE THE AOL BROWSER.

Add/Drop Classes & Check Grades

Forms for adding/dropping a class or requesting an official transcript can be found at www.lamission.edu/itv. These forms can be faxed to (818) 833-3598 or brought in to our office.

To Add/Drop a class and check Official Grades online, visit www.laccd.edu.

To Add/Drop classes through the Student Telephone Enrollment Process (STEP):

1. Call (213) 689-8888 or (310) 605-0505 or (323) 226-1999 or (818) 988-2222
2. Press 0 for ITV/The Weekend College
3. Follow the instructions to complete your request

We're here to Help

If you need technical assistance logging in to your course, contact ITV Technical Support at (818) 833-3596 or send an email to mckennpg@lamission.edu. Be sure to include:

- Your full name
- Course title and instructor
- Student ID
- Your phone and e-mail address
- Date enrolled